

April 11, 2023



**Testimony of the American Lung Association  
In opposition to Assembly Bill 141  
Assembly Committee on State Affairs**

Chair Swearingen and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Assembly Bill 141. The American Lung Association strongly opposes this bill as it would prevent communities from choosing to protect the health of their families and the environment.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education, and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Lung Association strongly supports measures to prevent and reduce the exacerbation of lung disease. We likewise oppose all forms of preemption of state and local authority. We are concerned that AB 141 seeks to curtail the ability of local governmental entities in Wisconsin to enact policies to protect the health of its citizens through restrictions on the sale of products that the community deems dangerous.

For children living with asthma and allergies the use of natural gas in the home can worsen symptoms and result in reduced lung function in children, particularly in the absence of ventilation. The American Lung Association believes that protection of lung health and a sound U.S. energy policy are compatible goals that require an emphasis on energy conservation, energy efficiency, and the use of cleaner energy resources, including a transition from fossil fuels to clean, non-combustion alternatives.

Preempting local public entities from limiting the sale of appliances based on how they are powered in the best interest of their communities ignores a community's right to self-govern and protect health. Each level of government brings its own strengths, with local governments being uniquely positioned to meet the needs of the people who live in their communities. Cities and counties have been able to localize, and when necessary, build on and strengthen state laws to best meet the needs of their communities.

The American Lung Association urges Wisconsin lawmakers to oppose this proposal.